



Presbeat

First Presbyterian Church of Ukiah, CA
514 West Church Street; Ukiah CA ~ Office Hours Mon-Thurs, 9am-1pm ~ 707.468.9235
Pastor David Rodriguez – *Mobilized to Africa*
Pastor Daniel Christian, 707.380.6486; Pastor Kelsey Ingalls, 707.391.0021
www.fpcukiah.org “Like” us at www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurchukiah
Editor: Denise Beckler, Office Manager/Music Director
Volume 11, Number 7 ~ July 2017



The Journey ~ Hot Week in Ukiah!

It is hot this week in Ukiah! When I started working at the church on a cold rainy spring morning I was told, “it gets hot here, and your office doesn’t have air conditioning... hang in there when summer arrives.” The information delivered as kind warning didn’t hit me that hard. I grew up in a town just east of downtown Los Angeles. During the summer my hometown was a frequent national record setter for the hottest place in the United States. So when it comes to heat, I can handle it!

Then I came to Ukiah. I ran and “borrowed a fan” from our Vacation Bible School. Oh, the shame I felt! I was now stealing from children so I could stay sane from the heat. I went to the public library on North Main Street to “work remotely,” because they have air conditioning.

My wife Michelle and I as newbies to Ukiah thought we’d play golf at the Ukiah Valley Golf Course... it was 102 degrees and yes, we were the only ones out there. After eleven holes we headed to Walmart. She went shopping and I stuck my head in the freezer section just to get some relief.

That evening our Vacation Bible School began with laughter, squirt bottles, music, whirling fans, dressing up as Super Heroes, more whirling fans and along the way we learned about King David.

As a teenage Sunday school teacher I had experienced a traumatic King David craft project gone wrong with fifteen kindergartners. In short, Popsicle sticks, snapping rubber bands and Styrofoam plates were destroyed, and every child was crying.

So who is King David anyway? The King David story reveals grace in the face of the agony of human suffering. God emerges in the most unlikely place to the most unlikely person. This isn’t just good news, this is great news. King Saul has turned away from God, and now God pursues another. God turns to Samuel, a prophet, and it is Samuel who must now anoint a new King. Samuel is God’s messenger. The prophet Samuel is commissioned to go to Jesse, David’s father, in Bethlehem. Bethlehem is far outside King Saul’s reach. Samuel is dispatched by God to venture into a new territory.

God turns to a family tree that is not distinguished. Not a Trump, Bush, or Kennedy in this part of town. The drama here is explosive. To anoint a new king, when the old one is very much alive, is certain death. This is risky business and hazardous to Samuel’s health. Samuel entering Bethlehem is treated with

great caution. Why is the prophet coming to our little town of Bethlehem? Bethlehem is far from the eyes of the powerful and proud.

In God's choice we see a radical shift. If this were a headline today, David is the 99 percent. David is a light of hope for the many who live outside the palace walls. For the 1 percent inside the palace walls, David is a seismic shift for the future of Israel.

God comes to a cultural and political backwater town and anoints a new king to lead the future of Israel. In the most unlikely place, with the most unlikely of people, God's grace abounds.

The beauty and hope in the King David story is that if God can make it to Bethlehem, surely God can make it to Mendocino and even Ukiah, during a summer heat wave!

In our personal moments when we feel marginalized, or alone, when we feel so far away from other human beings, God can find possibilities for grace.

For thousands of years people around the world hear the story of David, and experience the seeds of hope, that are planted with every generation. It is the hope that out of the ordinariness of our life God's love reaches the most unlikely people.

That evening at sunset Michelle and I sat on the porch and watched the neighborhood fill with walkers, skate boarders and strollers. It was hot. We had finally cooled off. It was pleasant. The evenings in Ukiah during a heat wave are lovely. During the days however, I am praying for the gift of God's creation known as air conditioning! Have a joyous and blessed week. ~ *Pastor Daniel*

*Note: Daniel is a regular writer for the Ukiah Daily Journal.
You can read his articles in the Saturday paper, or also on our website: <http://fpcukiah.org/our-blog/>*



“Snip-its” from various correspondence from Pastor David in Djibouti

David's mailing address:

CAPT David Rodriguez, CHC, USN
Religious Affairs CJTF-HOA
PSC 831 Box 0015
FPO AE 09363

6/29: Bravo Zulu! Last night I was with some of the Marines at our base for a BBQ and outdoor games in the 95 degree heat and 60% humidity. The one in the middle is our Commanding Officer, Brigadier General David Furness. They invited me to join them because I'm their chaplain and because I have spent most of my career serving with the Marines. I have the Fleet Marine Force Qualified Officer badge on my uniform above the left hand pocket of my shirt. They also invited me because I'm really lousy at their stupid games and they like to harass sailors.

6/13: Somalia is in our Area of Responsibility (AOR) and our folks are the ones who are carrying out these missions. I'm making regular visits to Somalia now to provide pastoral care and worship services for them. (article here: [U.S. Strike Targets Al-Shabab in Somalia](#)) "We remain committed to working with our Somali partners and allies to systematically dismantle al-Shabab, and help achieve stability and security throughout the region," says chief Pentagon spokesperson Dana W. White.

6/13: Caritas Djibouti orphanage: My office collects supplies for the orphanage and regularly makes trips there. When we arrived at the orphanage we were told that their water system had broken down and they had been without water for almost 2 days. So I asked the Marines if any of them knew how to work with electrical wiring and pumps and three of them said that they did. They are aircraft mechanics. So we went to see what was wrong with the orphanage's water system.

The Marines diagnosed the problem and we (my deputy and my assistant) took them to a hardware store where we bought a new pump, pump controller, tools, and other parts. We went back to the orphanage and they installed it. Now the orphanage has water for drinking, cooking, laundry, cleaning, and the bathrooms.



The director of the orphanage and the doctor are from France. When I went to tell the director that we were working on the pump, there were other folks from France in his office. When he saw me he said, "You're going to tell me that the water system can't be fixed, aren't you?" I replied, "We can fix anything. We're from America." The French loved hearing that. And I loved saying it

6/6: All is well here in beautiful downtown Africa. Right now I am at the US military compound in Mogadishu, Somalia visiting our folks. With me is a US Navy chaplain who is a Muslim imam. We're going to have dinner with some generals in the Somali military. Muslims are celebrating the fast of Ramadan now. When they break the fast at sundown to eat and have their evening prayer the occasion is called an Iftar. We'll have an Iftar dinner together and talk about how the president of Somalia wants to have reconciliation with the Al Shabab rebels who are fighting the government. It will be an interesting dinner.

Last night, we had an Iftar dinner on our base in Djibouti with the Muslim imam and the Muslim workers on the base. It was an interesting event, given the attack in London earlier in the day. Last week we had an Iftar dinner at the home of the US Military Attaché from the US Embassy in Djibouti. That dinner included high ranking members of the Djibouti and US militaries.

In the military, these events are considered military calls, Strategic Religious Ministry. At the US State Department, this is called Religious Diplomacy. In the Bible this is called Christ's Ministry of Reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:11-21).

I am very safe here. I'm on an ultra-secure US military compound. The UN and the US State Department are also here. I'll write more later. I have to get back to saving the world.

In Christ, *Pastor David*

*This month we say “Farewell and God Bless”
to Donne & Kelsey Ingalls and their children.*

*There will be a luncheon following worship on
July 30th. Details to come... stay tuned.*



May we help you?

If your yard needs a little help with weeds or flower planting and your knees and back aren't what they used to be, your Deacons want to help. Contact the church office (468-9235) and leave your name and phone number and we will contact you.



Cents-Ability Reminder



Don't forget to bring your Cents-Ability offering to church on Sunday, July 2nd. The collection is taken during communion, Baskets are in the front for your convenience. Remember all your money is used to help feed the hungry in our area. Thank you for helping with your prayers and donations.

CALLING ALL CHILI COOKS

**Time to dig through those recipes and put on your chef's hat!
Let's see what you got!**

Our in house Chili Cook-off is coming Sunday, August 20th. There are always opportunities to join in the fun so look for the sign-up sheets to see where you might lend a hand.



Meals To Go Fundraiser Report



All the receipts are in and we brought in \$3,330!! As you know this year the monies raised will benefit our local mission projects such as NorCal Christian Ministries, Church Camper-ships, Target Truth Ministries and our Care package ministry for military personnel. Thank you all for your continued support of our church missions.

Care Packages sent to David 6/16/17

- Box 1: 40 Otter Pops, 72 Fun Pops, 1 box Girl Scout Cookies, 4 bags Popcorn, 30 tubes of peach mango instant iced tea & 1 letter (from the youth group).
- Box 2: 8 boxes Girl Scout Cookies, 26 bags of popcorn.
- Box 3: 10 DVD's, 19 bags of popcorn, 3 boxes Girl Scout Cookies, bag of hard candy, 30 tubes of peach mango instant iced tea.
- Box 4: 40 Otter Pops, 31 bags of popcorn, 1 DVD

Cost of shipping \$17.35/box = \$69.40



We are still looking for empty Pringle cans in which to send homemade cookies. Also homemade cookies baked in muffin tins so they fit perfectly in the Pringle cans.

We will send another shipment as soon as more donations come in to fill the large flat rate boxes. Donations can be deposited in the tub marked "Military Care Packages" in the narthex on Sunday or in the office during office hours. So far, David's is the only overseas military address I have. If there are other family members serving overseas, please contact the office or Wilma Pribyl 367-1594.



A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped with VBS!!! It was **HOT**

but it was successful... the kids had lots of fun. The "theme" for the week was "Do good, seek peace.... GO AFTER IT!" We had crazy hair day, pajama day, and many many spray bottles to cool down the kids. Praise the Lord for children!



Parents, if you HAVE NOT yet registered for camp, or applied for camperships, NOW IS THE TIME!!!!

Church Family, most of our campers are going to Westminster Woods July 19-23, others July 23-29. We would LOVE to have you write letters to them. Due to confidentiality (accessibility from the Internet), we cannot put their names in the Presbeat, but you can call the office or speak with Dory or Kelsey for names and camp address/codes.



Youth retreat dates have been changed to: Aug 16-18

Check in Aug. 16 @ 6pm ~ Check out Aug 18 at 11am



Buildings & Grounds meeting:
August 3 @ 6pm

ALL church work day: Saturday, August 5, 8:00 – 11:30 am. Pastries will be provided. And all hands are welcome!!!

We are currently \$16,734 over in expenses vs income through May.

We paid our annual insurance premium of ~\$8,000 in May which contributes to this shortfall.

Also this year there was an unexpected BOP (Board of Pensions) cost with overlap in senior pastors. WE are trusting that Gods plan will unfold; for sure we have a change with Kelsey leaving.

Please review your giving commitment for the year and ensure you are on track. If you would like a copy of your contribution statement year-to-date, please email Denise, denise@fpcukiah.org, and she will email one to you.

Thank you to each one of you that continues to uphold our church in prayer, service and financial offerings.

God is good... All the time!!

As of May 31, 2017		Total \$\$
Income	\$	105,201
Expenses	\$	121,935
Difference	\$	(16,734)
Balance in Checking Account		Total \$\$
Non-Designated Funds	\$	42,894
Designated Funds (detail below)	\$	43,195
Total Balance in Checking	\$	86,089
Balance in Savings		Total \$\$
CD's	\$	44,237
Mutual Funds	\$	24,264
Other Savings	\$	53,310
Total Balance in Savings	\$	121,812
Detail of Designated Funds in Checking Account		
Missions	\$	3,370
Hispanic Ministries	\$	494
Hispanic MicroLoans	\$	1,010
Mission Trip	\$	3,043
Centsability	\$	(400)
Per Capita	\$	584
Deacons	\$	61
Flowers	\$	-
General Memorial	\$	25,775
Camperships	\$	1,258
Building and Grounds	\$	200
Compassionate Ministries	\$	885
Singalong	\$	454
Senior Ministries	\$	-
Adult Ministries	\$	3
Youth Ministries	\$	76
Children's Ministries	\$	29
Childrens Playground	\$	4,346
Vacation Bible School	\$	10
Special Grants	\$	1,933
Fellowship Meals	\$	64
Total	\$	43,195

Reverend Mrs. Virginia Lee Siewert passed away at a Hospice in Prescott, Arizona, on June 3rd, 2017, at age 84. She earned her Master of Divinity degree at San Francisco Theological Seminary. Virginia, known as Ginnie, participated in services in many Presbyterian Churches ~ preaching, leading Bible studies, singing in choir, leading Women's programs and much more. Ginnie is a dedicated Christian and she was active until the very end. We will all miss her.

Her husband of 57 years, Howard R. Siewert



Dear FPCU,

I would like to thank you all for your continued support of NCCM. We are excited about our new afternoon program which started Tuesday, June 13th.

Please keep this afternoon program in your prayers. Pray for wisdom, discernment, that the program will be successful and most important pray that it will be pleasing to God.



New Afternoon Program Grateful Recovery Group

When: Tuesday – Thursday; 1:00-4:00pm

Where: New Life Community Church
750 Yosemite Dr. Ukiah

(Burger King Church)

All are welcomed. Sorry no pets.

For more information call Tony (707) 481-8398

Love and need you all ~ Tony Huerta, Executive Director NCCM

Did we miss your birthday??? Please contact the church office or email Denise denise@fpcukiah.org so we can send you a card and celebrate with you!



Happy Birthday!

7/2 Bernice Damon	7/20 Hannah Hedges	7/25 Dave Holland
Kelsey Ingalls	7/21 Ethan Haselswerdt	Rowland Pringle
7/5 Addison Huff	7/22 Jaunita Coddington	7/26 Diego Manzo
7/6 Helen Nicolaisen	Bryce Gilman	Marilyn Stobie
7/8 Randy Beckler	Rick Klug	7/30 Bob Schultz
7/10 Meliah Singleton	7/24 Allan Grass	7/31 Cherie Alton
7/14 Perrine Kirchen		

Event Calendar ~ July



Sun weekly	6:00pm	#SWAG Youth Group
Mon weekly	5:30pm	Cub Scouts
Tue. weekly	6:30am	NorCal Christian Ministries
	8:30am	Serendipity Bible Study
	6:00pm	Spanish AA; NAHOP
Wed. weekly	6:30am	NorCal Christian Ministries
	6:00pm	Worship Team rehearsal
Thurs. weekly	6:30am	NorCal Christian Ministries
	1:00pm	ABC Program
	6:00pm	Spanish AA

...additional events for the month

7/2	CENTSABILITY OFFERING		
7/3-5	Daniel & Kelsey off		
7/4	July 4th – Office is Closed		
7/8	Stitches from the Heart <i>(cancelled)</i>		
	10:00am Interfaith Lunches		
7/9	1:00pm Interfaith Lunches		
7/11	11:00am Missions Committee		
	6:00pm Resource Council		
7/12	10:30am Worship Committee		
	1:30pm PW Bible Study		
		7/13	6:00pm Boy Scouts
		7/16-24	Daniel vacation
		7/18	noon Family/Outreach Council
		7/26	11:45am ROMEOs
		7/27	5:30pm Deacons
			6:00pm Session <i>(new date)</i>

7/30: 11am Farewell Potluck for the Ingalls family